

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add new claims 38-40 as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method for coating at least a portion of at least one medical appliance, comprising:
 - suspending the at least one medical appliance in a fluidizing gas flow;
 - directing a coating onto an ultrasonic nozzle, the ultrasonic nozzle directed towards the at least one medical appliance; and
 - vibrating the ultrasonic nozzle at a rate sufficient to atomize the coating.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising directing a further gas flow at the ultrasonic nozzle, the further gas flow transporting the atomized coating to the at least one medical appliance.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising directing the fluidizing gas flow at the ultrasonic nozzle, the fluidizing gas flow transporting the atomized coating to the at least one medical appliance.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the rate of vibration of the ultrasonic nozzle is between about 48 kilohertz and about 122 kilohertz.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the rate of vibration of the ultrasonic nozzle is about 122 kilohertz.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising one of heating and cooling the fluidizing gas flow.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating includes a therapeutic agent.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one medical appliance includes at least one stent.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one stent includes between about 200 and about 600 stents.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one stent includes a flexible stent.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the operation of directing the coating onto the ultrasonic nozzle includes causing a flow of the coating of about .5 milliliters per minute.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation of suspending the at least one medical appliance with a fluidizing gas flow is performed in a hurricane.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the ultrasonic nozzle is directed to the interior of the hurricane.

14. – 37. (Canceled).

38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the gas in the fluidizing gas flow is selected from the group of nitrogen, argon and air.

39. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the gas in the fluidizing gas flow is at a pressure of 35 psi.

40. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the gas in the fluidizing gas flow is at a pressure of greater than 20 psi.